

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 18-26, 29-41 are pending in the application, with Claims 6, 15-17 and 27-28 cancelled, Claims 37-41 added, and Claims 1, 7, 8, 22, 24, 29-31 and 34-36 amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7, 30, and 34 were objected to for informalities, Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 18-20, 23-27, 31, 32, and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Alavie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,703 B1; hereinafter “Alavie”); Claims 8, 10, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alavie in view of Stoner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,744,793 B2; hereinafter “Stoner”); Claims 12, 13, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alavie in view of Yun et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,816,515 B1; hereinafter “Yun”); Claims 28 and 29 were objected to but were also indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge line XR of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 20, 2001

Independent Claim 24 is amended to recite the allowable features of Claim 28. Independent Claims 1, 31 and 34-36 are similarly amended. New Claims 37-41 are directed to alternative features disclosed in Applicants’ originally filed specification.¹ No new matter is added.

¹ Specification, paragraph [0069].

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Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2005

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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